



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Vol. 1. No. 1

231 King's Highway East

February, 1958

INTERESTING MID-WINTER MEETING TO FEATURE "ROMANCE OF TIME" AND CANDLELIGHT SUPPER

The New Year ushers in some exciting new programs for the Historical Society. As you will note, the program for the Midwinter Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, would be hard to beat.

Our new program chairman, Miss Florence Dickinson, has arranged a lecture and exhibit of unusual time pieces, imaginatively titled, "The Romance of Time." Our lecturer and exhibitor, Mr. Ernest A. Cramer, is a man who has made old time pieces his lifelong study. He will present their history, their sounds and a group of collector's items that promise a rare treat for antiquarians.

Mr. Cramer comes to us through the courtesy of S. Kind and Sons, Jewelers, with whom he has been associated for 42 years. He will trace the development of time measuring devices from the earliest sundial to the Clepsydras (waterclock), the sundial gun, the sand glass, King Alfred's notched candle and the graduated lamp.

More than 100 watches dating from the fifteenth century to the present are included in the fascinating display. Other collections to be shown are watch papers, winding keys, balance bridges and portable pocket sundials.

A delightful feature of this lecture will be a novelty presentation called "SOUNDS OF TIME," which depicts the various sounds used with clocks.

CANDLELIGHT CUISINE

A covered dish supper at 6:30 P. M. will also enliven our next meeting. Mrs. John Baxter, chairman of the women's committee, has planned a delicious menu and a charming candlelight setting in the Lake Street Friends Meeting House.

The "tariff" is only \$1.50, less than the cost of most dinners prepared at home! If you have not already sent in your reservation, do so now. Guests are cordially invited and this is an ideal meeting at which to introduce your friends and neighbors to the value of membership in the Historical Society.

Your Watch May Win a Prize

The firm of S. Kind and Sons, in addition to providing our speaker for the Midwinter Meeting, will also award a prize valued at \$10.00 to the person bringing the oldest watch to the meeting. We understand the watch need not run . . . so long as it is old!

SOCIETY MAY PURCHASE HISTORIC GREENFIELD HALL AS HEADQUARTERS

The following letter written by Mr. Herbert R. Leicht, president of the Society, is published here to inform members of the progress made on the proposed purchase of 343 King's Highway East as the new Society headquarters.

Dear Members:

Many of you have heard the news that your Society is considering the purchase of the Bauer house at 343 King's Highway East for future Society headquarters. I have been asked by the Council to report to you on the progress and developments regarding this proposed acquisition at this time when our new Historical Society Bulletin offers an opportunity to reach all our members.

For those of you who may wonder "how it all started," let me bring you up to date. Several months ago, Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Bauer, wishing to move to a smaller home and at the same time to perpetuate the tradition of Haddonfield, offered their home for sale to the Historical Society in preference to placing it on the open market.

Coincidentally, our town was confronted with the need for greater library space and since the Historical Society owns a portion of the Haddonfield Library property and it was necessary for the Borough to secure sole ownership in order to proceed with the Library's expansion plans, it was agreed that the Borough would buy the Society's interest.

The considerable proceeds from the sale of the Library interest plus the amount eventually realized from the sale of the present Historical Society building would enable the Society to undertake larger headquarters which have long been seen as a real need if the Society is to attract new members and make its service more valuable to all members.

The Bauer house appears to us as the ideal property for this purpose for its unsurpassed historical values which the Society would perpetuate, and for its architectural beauty and spaciousness offering an inspiring place to hold our meetings and display the Society's historic and antique furnishings advantageously.

As to the present prospects for realizing this important step forward for the Society, the Commissioners are now waiting for the Library Board of Directors to submit an estimate on

the proposed plans. If that estimate does not exceed the appropriation made by the former Commissioners for this project, the courts, which are thought to look favorably on the move, will be petitioned to permit the sale of the property.

In the event that the Bauer house is purchased for the Historical Society, what about the matter of maintenance? This has concerned some of our members. This matter is being carefully studied by your Council in order to develop plans that will be adequate, yet not constitute a burden to the Society.

Other Historical Societies in New Jersey and in other states have found the means to purchase and maintain eminent old homes for

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GREENFIELD HALL

Now "Boxwoods," the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Bauer, the beautiful Georgian home at 343 King's Highway East was built in 1844 by John Gill 4th and his wife Sarah Hopkins, descendant of Ebenezer Hopkins who was nephew and heir of Elizabeth Haddon.

The house was built on the foundation of the house which John Gill's grandfather had erected. It was the third house to be built on this site. It is recorded in a family history that Greenfield Hall was built "by skillful architects from the famous city of Penn . . . the bricks used on the exterior of the house were pressed by the skill of the cunning workman nicely fitted together so that the joints could hardly be seen."

It was on the site of this home during the Revolutionary War that Count Dorop sought the Gill's hospitality on the night before the fateful Battle of Red Bank.

Greenfield Hall was noted for its old-time hospitality and as John Gill's granddaughter, Mary Gill, once remarked when a young lady, "It is my ideal of a Grandfather's house." The fine trees on King's Highway in front of Greenfield Hall were planted by John Gill 3rd and his son John Gill 4th.

The beautiful box garden in the rear of the Bauer house was started soon after the Revolutionary War. In the cellar one can see the passage leading to the underground railroad and a huge potato bin which was used to hide slaves during the Civil War.



EXAMINING THE ARTIFACTS AND EXHIBITS on Old Gloucester Point, presented in a talk by Harry F. Green, president of the Historical Society of Gloucester City, at the last meeting of the Haddonfield Historical Society are (left to right) Miss Helen M. Browning, Mr. Herbert R. Leicht, Mr. Arthur C. Kohl, Mrs. Kohl, Harry F. Green, Mrs. Louis Goettelmann, Mr. Louis Goettelmann, Mr. Joseph Nicholson and Mrs. Daniel Burt Harris.

SOCIETY HEARS FASCINATING STORY ON GLOUCESTER POINT

Those who had the good fortune to attend the last meeting in November of the Society, were treated to a fascinating bit of 18th and 19th century New Jersey history presented by Mr. Harry F. Green, president of the Historical Society of Gloucester City.

Mr. Green brought to the meeting an assortment of historical facts and exhibits on old Gloucester Point which kindled considerable interest in this portion of Camden County, once Gloucester County.

Famous relic of the Point's historical importance in the Revolutionary War is the remains of the battleship H. M. S. Augustus, sunk in the battle of Red Bank on October 22, 1777, still to be seen off the Point. Mr. Green brought a box full of pieces of the aged Irish oak from the hull of the ship and many members carried this souvenir home with them.

It is interesting to note that the mantelpiece and the presiding officer's chair in the DAR room in the Indian King Tavern are made of the wood from the Augustus.

At Gloucester Point the memorable battle of November 25th, 1777, was fought. Referred to as the "skirmish of Gloucester", with the famed Lafayette in charge, the troops retreated on the night of November 26 to Haddonfield with their wounded, killed and prisoners.

Cornwallis, Mr. Green reported, retired 2 days later. "Lord Cornwallis had a hard time in Gloucester, didn't stay there long," he added.

The first settlers came to the Point in 1677. However, there are no old buildings remaining in Gloucester Point built before 1852. Although the earliest settlers were known to be Quakers, it has remained a mystery that no Quaker church buildings still stand.

In 1769, the first Methodist Mission

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their headquarters which have served as fitting repositories of the town's historical lore and possessions. We believe the Society's ownership of the Bauer house will help to preserve Haddonfield's great tradition and will greatly stimulate interest in it.

Herbert R. Leicht, President

The Historical Society of Haddonfield

The purpose of the Society is to encourage historical study and research, to perpetuate the historical heritage of Haddonfield and to acquire and preserve articles of historical and antiquarian interest.

Officers for 1957-58 are:

Mr. Herbert R. Leicht, President
 Mr. Joseph M. Tatem, 1st Vice President
 Mr. Edwin J. Pearson, 2nd Vice President
 Mrs. Ellwood E. Hess, 3rd Vice President
 Mr. Charles R. Mulloy, Jr., Treasurer
 Mrs. Daniel Burt Harris, Recording Secretary
 Mrs. Warren W. Place,

Corresponding Secretary

Annual Membership Dues: \$2.00

Headquarters:

King's Highway East, Haddonfield, N. J.

Open Monday through Friday afternoons
 from 2:30 to 4:30 o'clock.

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aries arrived, but it was not until 1839 that the first church congregation met in Gloucester. Of Methodist denomina-

tion, the meeting was held in an old log school. Gloucester Point now has three Methodist churches.

The first ferry to Philadelphia operated in 1770 from the Point at Hugg's Inn, transporting produce in summer from the farmers in South Jersey. The old Hugg's tavern, erected in 1750, was at Wharton Lane and River Front and was torn down in 1929. Gloucester Point is also credited with the first shad fishing in the state.

By the latter half of the nineteenth century, Old Gloucester Point was a pleasure spot for the people of Philadelphia and South Jersey. A passenger ferry operated frequently by the 1880's. "There were wonderful sandy beaches," Mr. Green related, "groves of trees and boathouses where small boats were stored. Gloucester Beach was famous for its beer gardens and amusements. Planked shad dinners served at hotels helped to spread the fame of the Point."

Old Gloucester Point lost its fishing village and resort character with the industrialization of this area. In 1923 the ferries were discontinued when the Gloucester Ferry burned down. Today, though there is little remaining of the old Point except the hull of the Augustus, this interesting piece of land that juts out into the Delaware just a few miles from Haddonfield has left an important mark on the early history of New Jersey.